

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: July 1, 2008

USDA CHICKEN BURGERS PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED (PY-335):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen fully cooked chicken burgers for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Frozen fully cooked chicken (fowl) burgers must be produced from ground and seasoned fowl and formed into burgers weighing 2.5 ounces (71 grams). The commodity must be packaged in 5-pound bags (4.54 kg) or bulk packaged in a bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg). **Interested offerors must ensure that the Contracting Officer receives the technical proposal and two pre-bid samples not later than 1 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday, July 28, for evaluation. The Commodity Specification for Chicken Burgers dated July 2008 provides detailed instructions for submission of samples and the factors used for evaluation. Offers will be invited from approved suppliers only.** Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, Aug. 4, will be issued in the near future. Subsequent invitations may be issued.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

There are some important changes to this year's program. Under the food defense requirements, all non-conformances listed in the audit report must be addressed in writing within 14 days to the Contracting Officer. Plans must also have been audited since February 7, 2008. In addition, Program Announcements have been replaced with the Master Solicitation for Commodity Purchases and the Qualification Requirements for Prospective Contractors Selling Commodities to USDA. Also, qualified bidders must provide annual financial updates to Dun & Bradstreet as detailed in the Qualification Requirements.

All certifications in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) and Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Although most other provisions of the program are similar to the program operated last year, offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of the Master Solicitation for Commodity Purchases dated May 2008; Qualification Requirements for Prospective Contractors dated May 2008; the Commodity Specification for Chicken Burgers dated July 2008, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

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